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requesting privacy through one or more messages sent to the network node device, the one or more messages comprising the request for privacy and the identifier.

REMARKS

The present application was filed on September 18, 2000 with claims 1 through 9. Claims 1 through 9 are presently pending in the above-identified patent application. Claims 1, 2, 5, 8 and 9 are proposed to be amended herein. The amendments are supported, *inter alia*, by FIGS. 10 through 14 and related text. The independent claims are claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, and 9.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 and 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ghisler, United States Patent Number 5,926,755 (hereinafter, Ghisler) and rejected claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ghisler in view of Grundvig et al., United States Patent Number 6,434,394 (hereinafter, Grundvig).

Applicants have modified the specification to point out that the present application is related to several other applications, each of which was filed on the same date as the present application and each has at least one common inventor.

Applicants have made clarifying amendments to claims 1, 2, 5, 8, and 9. Claims 1, 2, 8, and 9 have been amended to clarify that an identifier (generally included in a memory) may correspond to a wireless device, that requests for bridging or privacy may be performed using messages from the wireless devices to the network node device, and that the messages may include the request and the identifier. Additionally, claim 9 has been amended to clarify that a request for a connection may be made by signaling on a command channel, as described (for instance) in FIG. 9 and associated text of the present invention.

Independent Claims 1-3, 6, 8 and 9

Independent claims 1-3 and 8-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ghisler. Independent claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ghisler in view of Grundvig.

Regarding claims 1-3 and 8-9, the Examiner asserts that Ghisler discloses a digital radio terminal 400 that can handle multiple calls simultaneously. Regarding claim 6, the Examiner asserts that Grundvig teaches an exemplary process by which the cordless telephone automatically routes a ring signal and/or voice conversation of an incoming telephone call to only a designated handset or handsets, thereby providing "privacy."

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, and 9 are patentable over Ghisler and Grundvig, alone or in combination. Independent claims 1 and 8 contain the limitation of requesting bridging to a call in progress, while independent claim 3 contains the limitations of signaling to join a call in progress and joining the call in progress. Because each of these claims contain limitations regarding bridging or signaling to join a call in progress, these claims will be discussed together. On the other hand, independent claims 2 and 9 each contain the limitation of requesting privacy, so these claims will be discussed together and separately from independent claims 1, 3 and 8.

Regarding claims 1, 3 and 8, each of these claims has a limitation of requesting bridging to a call in progress or signaling to join a call in progress. The Examiner seems to assert that Ghisler discloses these limitations. For the purposes of argument, the Applicants assume that the terminals 400 and the plain old telephones (POTs) to which they are connected in Ghisler meet the limitation of "wireless devices" in claims of the present invention. Nonetheless, Applicants respectfully submit that Ghisler discloses that a call through a terminal 400 to one of the POTs 350 in Ghisler is ***independent*** from another call through a terminal 400 to another of the POTs 350. For instance, Ghisler uses the term "independent" when describing calls to the POTs 350 at the following locations (for example): col. 4, lines 28 and 38; col. 7, line 54; col. 9, lines 4, 23 and 37; and claims 1 through 4 and 10 through 14. Applicants can find no teaching or implication in Ghisler of the possibility that POTs 350 can request bridging to a call in progress or can signal to join a call in progress, as Ghisler never teaches or implies that one POT 350 can join another POT 350 in a call.

Ghisler does use the term "simultaneous" when describing calls by the POTs 350. However, this term is used to indicate that ***independent*** calls can occur

simultaneously. For instance, Ghisler states, at col. 3, lines 24-26, "Also, simultaneous ***independent*** calls may be conducted for very little additional cost" (emphasis added). See also, for example, col. 3, lines 1-5 of Ghisler, where it states, "Once a traffic channel has been set up for a first outgoing call or a first incoming call, an ***independent*** second outgoing or incoming call may be set up between the radio base station and the radio terminal by signalling [sic] over the existing traffic channel" (emphasis added). Based on this and other disclosure in Ghisler, there can be multiple simultaneous calls to POTs 350, but these calls are ***independent***.

Consequently, because Ghisler never teaches or implies that two POTs can join in one call, then Ghisler cannot teach or imply that POTs can request bridging to a call in progress or signal to join a call in progress, as required by independent claims 1, 3 and 8 of the present invention. In other words, if the POTs in Ghisler cannot join in one call, then the POTs in Ghisler cannot request to join a call in progress. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 3 and 5 are patentable over Ghisler.

Applicants also respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 3 and 9 are patentable over Grundvig. Applicants read Grundvig as describing a system that uses caller ID information for an incoming call to route the call to particular handsets. For purposes of argument, Applicants assume that a "handset" in Grundvig meets the limitation of "wireless devices" in the claims of the present invention. Grundvig does seem to imply that a conversation can be sent to multiple handsets. For example, in step 210 of FIG. 3 of Grundvig, the voice conversation is provided to all handsets and in step 212 of FIG. 3 of Grundvig, the voice conversation is provided to designated handsets. But this indicates that the conversation in Grundvig is simply transmitted to certain handsets. There is no indication in Grundvig that handsets can request bridging to a call in progress or signal to join a call in progress, as claimed in independent claims 1, 3 and 8 of the present invention. In the present invention, a wireless device can request bridging to a call in progress or signal to join a call in progress, and the wireless device's request can be refused. See, for instance, FIG. 15 and associated text of the present invention. Because Grundvig does not teach or imply that handsets can request bridging to a call in

progress or signal to join a call in progress, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 3 and 9 are patentable over Grundvig.

Because neither Ghisler nor Grundvig teach or imply requesting bridging to a call in progress or signaling to join a call in progress, independent claims 1, 3 and 8 are patentable over Ghisler and Grundvig, alone or in combination.

Regarding amended claims 2 and 9, each of these claims requires the limitation of requesting privacy through one or more messages sent to a network node device. The amendments to independent claims 2 and 9 are supported, *inter alia*, by steps 1301 through 1304 of FIG. 13 of the present invention. The Examiner admits that Ghisler fails to teach call privacy but asserts that Grundvig teaches an exemplary process by which the cordless telephone automatically routes a ring signal and/or voice conversation of an incoming telephone call to only a designated handset or handsets, thereby providing "privacy."

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 2 and 9 are patentable over Ghisler and Grundvig, alone or in combination. Applicants can find no teaching or implication in Ghisler or Grundvig of the limitation of requesting privacy through one or more messages. The Examiner admits that Ghisler fails to teach call privacy. Nonetheless, Grundvig does use the term "privacy." See, for instance, col. 6, lines 30-35 of Grundvig, where it states, "A multiple handset cordless telephone in accordance with the principles of the present invention offers each user increased *privacy* with respect to incoming telephone calls by limiting the likelihood of telephone calls being answered by unintended persons" (emphasis added).

However, the "privacy" provided by Grundvig occurs because the incoming telephone calls are routed only to handsets associated with certain caller ID information. There is no teaching or implication in Grundvig that a wireless device can request privacy through one or more messages. Grundvig does state the following, at col. 5, line 63 to col. 6, line 12:

> However, the present invention also encompasses more sophisticated scenarios, e.g., where perhaps all telephones receive the ring signal for a call from the caller indicated in the table entry, but perhaps only one of the handsets 14a, 14b or 14c receives the subsequent voice conversation. This type scenario might be best suited to a manual 'acceptance' of an incoming call from only one of the plurality of handsets

> after the incoming call has been established with all handsets. this manual acceptance would then disable the voice transmission to the other handsets 14a to 14c until the termination of the current incoming call. This allows, e.g., a parent to answer an incoming call, let a child know that the telephone call is intended for them, and then allow the child to 'accept' and thus lock out the conversation from their parents handset for the remainder of the telephone conversation to allow the child the security of a private conversation.

The cited text from Grundvig does not teach or imply that the child's handset is sending a request for privacy through one or more messages, as claimed in independent claims 2 and 9 of the present invention. Instead, the child "accepts" the telephone call and the parent's handset is locked out. Moreover, the cited text from Grundvig states that only one of the handsets would receive the conversation. Thus, when that one handset (i.e., the child's handset) was enabled, the conversation automatically would be forwarded to that one handset. There is no need in Grundvig for a handset to request privacy, because only one handset can receive the conversation in the cited text.

By contrast, the present invention allows multiple wireless devices (e.g., handsets) to join the same call, if the wireless devices are allowed to join the call. Thus, the present invention also provides, in claims 2 and 9, techniques for a wireless device to request privacy so that no other wireless device can join the call or so that other wireless devices will be disconnected if the wireless devices have joined the call. See, for instance, FIG. 13 of the present invention.

Consequently, Grundvig does not teach or imply the limitation in independent claims 2 and 9 of requesting privacy through one or more messages. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claims 2 and 9 are patentable over Ghisler and Grundvig, alone or in combination.

Because Ghisler and Grundvig, alone or in combination, do not teach or imply the unique limitations of independent claims 1, 2, 3, 8, and 9, Applicants respectfully submit that these independent claims are patentable over the cited art.

Dependent Claims 4-5 and 7

Dependent claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ghisler and dependent claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ghisler in view of Grundvig.

Claims 4, 5, and 7 are dependent on claims 3 and 6, respectively, and are therefore patentably distinguished over Ghisler and Grundvig (alone or in any combination) because of their dependency from independent claims 3 and 6 for the reasons set forth above, as well as other elements these claims add in combination to their base claim.

All of the pending claims, i.e., claims 1-9, are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 26, 2003

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VERSION MARKED TO SHOW CHANGES

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, prior to "FIELD OF THE INVENTION," please insert the following:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is related to the following U.S. Patent applications, each of which was filed on September 18, 2000: "Hybrid Wireline Wireless Phone Service," Serial No. 09/664,460; "Business Method for Hybrid Wireline Wireless Network Service," Serial No. 09/664,329; "Hybrid Wireline Wireless Network Service," Serial No. 09/664,328; "Sharing of Wirelines Using a Network Node Device," Serial No. 09/664,229; "Telephone Network Edge Node Device for Bridging and Privacy," Serial No. 09/664,479; "Configuring and Maintaining Network Node Device," Serial No. 09/664,549; and "Wireless Communications Device," Serial No. 09/664,478.--

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A wireless device for connecting to one or more network node devices, the network node devices connected to one or more wirelines, the wireless device comprising:

one or more wireless signal generators supporting one or more wireless connections;

one or more memories [to store] comprising an identifier corresponding to the wireless device;

one or more negotiators that negotiate with the network node device in order to establish a connection to one or more wirelines connected to the network node; and

[a] a requesting process that requests, through one or more messages sent to the network node device, bridging to a call in progress, the one or more messages comprising the request for bridging and the identifier.

2. (Amended) A wireless device for connecting to one or more network node devices, the network node devices connected to a plurality of wirelines, the wireless device comprising:

one or more wireless signal generators supporting one or more wireless connections;

one or more memories [to store] comprising an identifier, wherein the identifier corresponds to the wireless device;

a negotiator that negotiates with the network node device in order to establish a connection to one or more wirelines connected to the network node; and

a requestor that requests privacy through one or more messages sent to the network node device, the one or more messages comprising the request for privacy and the identifier.

3. (Unchanged) A method of joining a call in progress from a wireless device through wireless communication with a network node device comprising the steps of:

initiating a connection by the wireless device between the wireless device and the network node device;

signaling the network node device by the wireless device to join a call in progress already connected through said network node device; and

joining the call in progress.

4. (Unchanged) The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of communicating with the network node device to establish the eligibility of the wireless device to join a call in progress.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 4 where the step of establishing eligibility of the wireless device includes:

[use of the phone] communicating to the network node device an identifier [of] corresponding to the [handset] wireless device [requesting to join the call].

6. (Unchanged) A method of establishing call privacy for a wireless device connected to a network node device comprising signaling by the wireless device to the network node device that privacy is requested.

7. (Unchanged) The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of communicating with the network node device to establish the eligibility of the wireless device to request privacy.

8. (Amended) A storage medium containing a computer program to direct a wireless device to initiate connection with a network node device, the computer program having the steps of:

signaling, by using at least one pre-established command channel, a [desire] request for a connection [on at least one pre established command channel];

communicating [of] an identifier from the wireless device to the network node device, wherein the identifier corresponds to the wireless device;

selecting [of] a wireless signaling method to be used between the wireless device and the network node device; and

requesting, through one or more messages sent to the network node device, bridging to a call in progress, the one or more messages comprising the request for bridging and the identifier.

9. (Amended) A storage medium containing a computer program to direct a wireless device to initiate connection with a network node device, the computer program having the steps of:

signaling, by using at least one pre-established command channel, a [desire] request for a connection [on at least one pre established command channel];

communicating [of] an identifier from the wireless device to the network node device; [and]

selecting [of] a wireless signaling method to be used between the wireless device and the network node device; and

requesting privacy through one or more messages sent to the network node device, the one or more messages comprising the request for privacy and the identifier.